and endeavour shall be made to decide the complaint within a period of three months from the date of receipt of notice by opposite party where the complaint does not require analysis or testing of commodities and within five months, if it requires analysis or testing of commodities'.

Custom duty on Imported Palm Oil

3060. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the Customs duty on imported refined palm oil;

(b) if so, the present import duty on palm oil;

(c) whether this reduction on customs duty has enhanced imports of edible oil into the country;

(d) if so, the details of edible oil imports during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether increase in the imports of edible oil adversely affect the indigenous products including coconut;

(f) if so, whether adequate steps are taken to protect the interests of the forming community and indigenous industry in the country; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA 'PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Import duty on Refined Palm Oil is 70% *w.e.f.* 30.4.2003.

(c) So far no noticeable increase has been observed.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

Movement of wheat for export

3061. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the movement of wheat for export by road has been banned with effect from 1st August, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that exporters have been persistently facing severe shortage of railway rakes for transporting foodgrains across the country, hampering speedy and timely delivery of export orders to their destinations; and

(d) if so, the details of special initiatives taken to make railway takes easily accessible to exporters for transportation of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) Due to widespread drought priority was accorded in allocation of railway rakes for meeting requirements of Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes.

Keeping in view the above aspect, it was decided to allow road movement of wheat for export purposes with effect from 13th February, 2003. This was extended from time to time upto 10th August, 2003.

Decline in procurement of foodgrains

3062. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the current season there is a decline in procurement of rice and other foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details of shortfall;

(c) whether it is due to failure of monsoon in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Bihar; and

(d) to what extend it would fall short of domestic consumption and whether this would necessitate imports to make up the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir/Madam.